



Dec. 10, 2013

House Committee on Regulatory Reform
The Honorable Hugh D. Crawford
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Crawford and distinguished members of the Committee:

On behalf of the more than 88,000 activists of Americans for Prosperity-Michigan, I am writing in support of HB 4044, which would allow health insurers to offer and sell plans independent of an exchange created in the state for the purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The consequences of President Obama's health care law continue to make headlines—from hours lost and jobs cut to skyrocketing premiums and insurance plan cancellation letters. Insurance companies should be allowed the freedom to market and sell their products independent of any ill-conceived government-run health care exchange.

Although this bill is unlikely to alter the disastrous course of Washington's health care takeover, it is one small step state lawmakers can take to demonstrate their commitment to rejecting President Obama's health care plan. Further, it gives insurers the freedom to market plans and consumers the freedom to purchase plans independent of a government-run health care exchange. In doing so, in a small way it seeks to thwart the "government knows best" mentality behind the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly to discuss this issue or legislation further, (517) 853-9073 or shagerstrom@afphq.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Hagerstrom
State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Michigan